

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
CHAPEL



REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

CANADA

From 1885 to 1930 the Headquarters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were in Regina, Sask., and since it was first opened "Depot" Division has been the principal training centre of the Force. Steeped as it is in the rich traditions of three-quarters of a century of Mounted Police history, the division has become the Mecca of thousands of visitors to the Saskatchewan capital. They see the splendid buildings which line the Barracks Square--some modern, some old--the offices, the well-kept residences of officers and men, the museum with its fine collection of historical records and mementoes and they are invited to enter the Chapel.

The impression created by a first view of the Chapel's interior is a profound one and not likely to be soon forgotten. The deeply religious aspect, the reverent setting, the reposeful quiet in contrast with the busy life outside, all bear witness that it is "A House of Prayer". But it is also a link with the past, a shrine commemorating the spirits of the Force's gallant men who have given their lives in the line of duty.

Originally a caskern, the Chapel building was constructed in Eastern Canada and moved in sections by flat-cars, steamer and ox-cart to Regina where it was assembled in 1885. In 1894 it was converted into a place of worship at the suggestion of Mrs. L.W. Hardham, wife of the fourth Commissioner of the Force. Through the years changes and improvements have been made in its appearance. Much of the work has been done by members of the Force. The strong gray tower was designed and constructed by the staff of "Depot" Division and on Dec. 10, 1937 dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of the officers and men who participated in the "March West" of 1874, from the Sufferin' Camp in Manitoba to the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta. Palpit, their seats and benches are also the work of Mounted Police personnel.

From inside the doors and looking toward the Altar and Reredos, one sees the beautiful stained glass windows on either side of them. The window on the right portrays a trumpeter of the Force sounding "Havoc!,"--symbolic of the Resurrection--and underneath the quotation "For the Trumpet Shall Sound". The one on the left bears the figure of a constable of the Force in Review Order, standing in the attitude of marching with carbine reversed. Beneath is the quotation "Blessed are they that mourn". These windows were the gift of the Maritime Provinces Association of Regina and at the top of each are the coats of arms of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. On June 18, 1944 the windows were dedicated "to the memory of the men of Maritime birth who died while in the service of the Force".

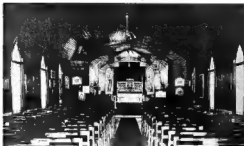
The other two stained glass memorial windows are on either side of the Rere against the Chancel end of the Chapel and are of more recent origin. Plans for their installation were first announced by the Commissioner--then S.T. Wood, GBE--in 1947. The windows were to commemorate the members and ex-members of the Force and the sons of members and ex-members of the Force who had paid the supreme sacrifice in World War II. One was to be installed from public funds; the other was to be purchased through the donations of the families who had suffered bereavement during the war. Design of the windows was Gothic and this eventually led to some delay in their installation when it was decided to alter all windows in the Chapel to the classic form.

By 1947 the alterations were complete and the windows were ready for shipping to England. Another delay in the plans occurred when an inspection of the Chapel building by officials of the Department of Public Works revealed that certain repairs to the structure were imperative. The renovation and installation of the windows was completed two years later and the two memorials were dedicated and unveiled on Nov. 4, 1951. The Rt. Rev. E.M. Kennedy, LL.B., D.D., FRSE, Chaplain of the RCMP conducted the dedication service, assisted by the Very Rev. Deane W. Cole, D.D., S.D., Assistant Chaplain.

The windows are known as "The Resurrection" and "The Nativity". The former, on the west side of the Chapel, is dedicated "To the Glory of God and in memory of members and ex-members of the Force who gave their lives in the Second Great War". Facing it, from the east side of the building, "The Nativity" is dedicated "To the Glory of God and in memory of the sons of members and ex-members who gave their lives in the Second Great War".

In the Sanctuary is a chair used at the Coronation of Their Majesties, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth by the Groomer Marchioness of Rosburg, GBE, and given by her to the Chapel. Of the altar furnishings, the Cross was a gift from the Rt. Rev. and Mon. A.J. Austin, First Bishop of Qu'Appelle, Vase by the officers and members of the Force and by Sgt. S.G. Hayrick, the brass candlesticks by Dr. J.M. Littlehales in memory of his mother, the brass back-rest by Bishop Kennedy and the brass altar rails by officers and members of the Force.

The lectern was carved by Gerald Spring-Rice of Poole, afterwards British Ambassador to Washington, U.S.A. The flags hanging on either side of the Chancel Floor over Port Walsh between 1875 and 1880 and were presented



by Mrs. Vera McCammon, daughter of the late Supt. J.M. Walsh one of the original officers of the RCMP. At the entrance of the Hall stands the Font presented by the parents of Cpl. W.S.T. Lowry who died of wounds received in action at Cut Knife Hill during the North-West Rebellion of 1885.

On Apr. 27, 1941 a fine new Hammond electric organ was presented to the Chapel by the Robert Simpson Co. Ltd., with Mr. C.L. Burton, president of the company, officiating. Bishop Knowlton conducted the dedication service.

The following is a list of the various Memorial Tablets which cover the walls on either side of the Nave:

Constable George Saunders—by Supt. C. Constantine—"Faithful unto death". (The story coming from the Yukon where the Force did such splendid work in the days of the "Wild West" of 1897-1903, is that Constable Saunders saved the life of Superintendent Constantine the Officer in Command of the Force there, after their canoe capsized in the rushing waters of the Yukon River, but himself sank through exhaustion.)

Constable J.H. Edwards. Erected by his comrades of "Depot" Division.

Constable R.E. Steele who died Dec. 13, 1901. Erected by his comrades in "Depot" Division.

Constable R.T. Tynes who died on duty Oct. 26, 1903. Erected by his comrades of "Depot" Division.

Inspector J.A. Fitzgerald, Constable S.F. Kinney, Constable L.H. Taylor and Special Constable G. Carter who lost their lives in the discharge of their duties on patrol from Fort McPherson, N.W.T. to Dawson, Yukon, February 1911. Erected by their comrades.

Colonel Lawrence H. Macdonald, Fourth Commissioner of the Force 1886-1900 who died Feb. 17, 1915. Erected by his daughter "Mirdie"—Mrs. E.V. Davis.

General Sir James Gordon MacBrien, KCB, CMG, BAO, Seventh Commissioner of the Force who died in Toronto Mar. 5, 1908, aged 59. Erected by his brother officers in token of their respect and affection.

Reginald Sumner Knight, Assistant Commissioner, RCMP, who died Nov. 1, 1927, aged 43. Erected by the members of his family.

Assistant Commissioner J.M. Duffus RCMP who joined the Force in 1896 and retired 1931 and who died in Vancouver, B.C. on Sept. 6, 1933. Erected by his family.

Inspector Robert Balcher CMG—RCMP 1873-1908; Major, Lord Strathcona's Horse, South Africa 1900-01; Lieutenant-Colonel Canadian Militia 1908-19; Officer Commanding 110th Battalion CEF 1913-17—died in Calgary on Feb. 7, 1917, aged 69.



Major Donald MacLean Brown, Inspector WMF 1890-1900 who died June 1919. Erected by his widow.

Inspector Frank Church, WMF who died at Hudson's Bay Junction on Dec. 15, 1909, aged 43. Erected by his brother officers.

Inspector Edward Gilpin Brown, WMF, late Captain, Gordon Highlanders, died in Toronto Dec. 30, 1904, aged 30. Erected by his brother officers.

Inspector John Taylor, WMF, who died at Mooseville, Sask., on Apr. 6, 1910, aged 47. Erected by his brother officers.

Inspector Percy Edward Strickland, WMF who died on Mar. 20, 1908. Given in remembrance by his children.

Assistant Commissioner Edward Ross Cathbert, WMF who died in Regina on Sept. 21, 1916, aged 36. Erected by his brother officers in token of their respect and affection.

Assistant Commissioner Zachary Taylor Wood CM, WMF, who died at Asheville, North Carolina, on Jan. 15, 1913, aged 54. Erected by his brother officers in token of their respect and affection.

Mary Sherwood Barringer, wife of Colonel Barringer through whose untiring endeavours this Chapel was purchased for the N.W.M. Police, who died at the Regina Barracks on Nov. 23, 1899. Erected by her daughter "Birdie", Mrs. E.F. Davis.

Maude Agnes Clay, beloved wife of Staff Sergeant E.O. Clay who died at Chesterfield Inlet, N.W.T. on Sept. 20, 1924, from injuries received after being attacked by dogs, aged 32.

26 Commissioned Officers of the Force who gave their lives while on duty.

16 Non-Commissioned Officers of the RCMP and RCMP who died during service in the Force. Erected by their brother RCMP at present serving--1934.

Mount. Sidney Farling, RCA, ex-Constable RCMP who died at Bulah, Wales, on June 7, 1943. "At the going down of the sun we will remember him". Erected by his parents.

On May 23, 1939, His Majesty King George VI, Honorary Commissioner of the Force and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth visited the Chapel and expressed great interest in the Memorial Windows and Tablets.

On Apr. 23, 1941, the Governor-General of Canada, the Earl of Athlone, and H.R.H. Princess Alice, visited the Chapel. His Excellency manifested much interest in the Tablet in memory of Inspector Church when he knew intimately in his old regiment, the Horse Guards.

On Oct. 17, 1941, Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth and Her Royal Consort, the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Chapel. The Princess remarked "It was my mother's wish that I should note the Memorial Windows behind the Altar", and took particular interest in them and in the Fitzgerald Memorial.

In read from the Apocrypha "Let us praise famous men and our Fathers that begot us--The Lord hath wrought great glory by them." It is even as in this Chapel of the Force, in the records contained on its walls and in its Sanctuary, wherein is remembered those who over 80 years ago went forth under the name of the North-West Mounted Police into an almost unknown land, bearing with them the authority of the Government of Canada to administer justice, to ameliorate the conditions of the native races and to protect the many thousands of settlers who would come within its borders; men whose memories we honor and who by their self-discipline, training, and experience left behind them an example and a tradition which continue in the lives of those who succeed them. Neither is forgotten the faithful wives who sought not their own welfare but who endured living under pioneer conditions and often in isolation for the joy of service and loyalty to their husbands. We conclude with the words of a Lieutenant-Governor of one of our Provinces: "Every Canadian cannot but be a better citizen after reading the history of the lives of the modest heroes whose devotion to duty and even-handed distribution of justice has commanded the admiration of the civilized world."